

MUTCD 2003

CALIFORNIA SUPPLEMENT

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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

TONY HARRIS
Acting Director, Department of Transportation

Addresses for Publications Referenced in the California Supplement

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MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES 2003 CALIFORNIA SUPPLEMENT

INTRODUCTION

This Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) California Supplement is published by the State of California, Department of Transportation and is issued to prescribe uniform standards and specifications for all official traffic control devices, in accordance with Section 21400 of the California Vehicle Code.

Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (2003 Edition), as amended by This MUTCD 2003 California Supplement is hereby adopted as the standard for all official traffic control devices, in accordance with Sections 21350 and 21400 of the California Vehicle Code. The MUTCD 2003 Edition and the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement supersede and replace the 1996 Caltrans Traffic Manual, as amended, and all previous editions thereof.

Department of Transportation publishes Standard Specifications, Standard Special Provisions, Standard Plans and other manuals, which contain specifications and requirements for traffic control devices, including their use and placement, when performing work on State highways. In some cases those specifications and requirements may vary from, and be more stringent than those shown in the MUTCD 2003 Edition and the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement. Whenever there is a discrepancy between the specifications and requirements contained in the MUTCD 2003 Edition and the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement, and those contained in the publications noted in the beginning of this paragraph for work on State highways, those publications shall govern.

On State highways the California Supplement shall mean to include Department of Transportation's Standard Specifications, Standard Special Provisions and Standard Plans publications.

All references made in the MUTCD to itself (such as "this manual") shall be taken to include this MUTCD 2003 California Supplement.

The MUTCD 2003 Edition and the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement do not supersede Department of Transportation's Standard Plans, Standard Specifications or the Special Provisions publications.

Nothing contained in the MUTCD 2003 Edition and the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement shall prevent the Department of Transportation from modifying, changing, or adopting new specifications deemed necessary.

Whenever there is a discrepancy between the specifications and requirements contained in the MUTCD 2003 Edition and the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement, the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement shall govern.

The text and figures shown in the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement are not legal standards except as they describe a device. Criteria for position, location, and use of traffic control devices is furnished solely for the purpose of guidance and information, and is not a legal standard. Engineering judgment must be used to apply these guidelines and typical applications, or adjust them to fit individual field site conditions. The

MUTCD 2003 California Supplement is not intended to be a substitute for engineering knowledge, experience or judgement.

Throughout this MUTCD 2003 California Supplement, the overall format of the MUTCD has been followed. There are ten Parts in this Manual and each Part is comprised of one or more Chapters. Each Chapter is comprised of one or more Sections. Parts are given a numerical identification, such as Part 2-Signs. Chapters are identified by the Part number and a letter, such as Chapter 2B-Regulatory Signs. Sections are identified by the Chapter number and letter followed by a decimal point and a number, such as Section 2B.05-STOP Sign Applications.

The MUTCD 2003 California Supplement Parts, Chapters and Sections correlate to the MUTCD Parts, Chapters and Sections in the same sequence, heading and numbering. In instances where there is no corresponding Section in the MUTCD for a topic, the Section in the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement is given a number that begins with 101 for that chapter, and increases in sequence. For example, Section 2B.116 – Speed Limits and Zones. Similarly, Figures and Tables which do not have any corresponding MUTCD Figures or Tables are given a number that begins with 101 for that chapter, and increases in sequence. For example, Figures 3A-101 through 3A-112 for pavement marking details. The MUTCD Figures and Tables that have been modified in the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement retain the same MUTCD Figure or Table number but include “CA” in parentheses to indicate that it is the California version of the MUTCD Figure or Table. For example, MUTCD 2003 California Supplement Figure 2B-13 (CA) modifies and replaces the MUTCD Figure 2B-13.

In instances where the MUTCD Section, Figure or Table is not mentioned in the MUTCD 2003 California Supplement, that MUTCD Section, Figure or Table is adopted as is for California without any changes or additions. For example, MUTCD Section 2B.07 – Multiway STOP Applications.

The headings Standard, Guidance, Option, and Support are used to classify the nature of the text that follows. Figures and tables supplement the text and might constitute a Standard, Guidance, Option, or Support. The user needs to refer to the appropriate text to classify the nature of the figure or table.

Throughout this MUTCD 2003 California Supplement all dimensions and distances are provided in the International System of Units, a modernized version of the Metric system, and their English equivalent units are shown in parentheses.

The target compliance dates listed in the Introduction part of the MUTCD and target compliance dates for other changes resulting from the MUTCD adoption process will be finalized after the adoption of the MUTCD for California, in consultation with the California Traffic Control Devices Committee.

Table I-101 Evolution of the Traffic Manual

| Year | Name |
|-------------|---|
| 1955 | Department of Public Works, Division of Highways Planning Manual of Instructions, Part 8 - Traffic |
| 1972 | Department of Public Works, Division of Highways Traffic Manual |
| 1996 | Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Operations Traffic Manual, Metric Version |
| 2004 | Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Operations MUTCD 2003 California Supplement |

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